

Message Text

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60

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-09 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DODE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 L-03 NSC-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ ARP: GQLUMSDEN, JR/ EUR/ CE: KSKOUG: RJW

5/15/73: EXTENSION 21481

APPROVED BY NEA/ ARP: FMDICKMAN

DOD/ ISA/ NESA: JTIMBERLAKE

DOD/ DSAA: GRANDPRE

DOD/ ISA/ SA: COL KELLY

PM/ MAS: COL. FARNHAM

----- 071318

O R 152214 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092680

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS; KU

SUBJECT: MILITARY SALES: M-60 TANK DEMONSTRATION FOR
KUWAIT ARMY

REF: (A) USCINCEUR 100728 Z MAY 73; (B) KUWAIT 1563

1. UPON RECEIPT REF (A), WE INVESTIGATED POSSIBILITY
BRINGING KUWAITI TEAM TO US FOR M-60 DEMONSTRATION, BUT
STATE AND DEFENSE NOW BELIEVE THAT TIME AND COST FACTORS
MAKE THIS OPTION OVERLY CUMBERSOME AND LIKELY TO IMPEDE
EXPECTED IMMINENT CONCLUSION \$500 MILLION PACKAGE WE HAVE
NEGOTIATED WITH GOK.

2. WE APPRECIATE FRG SENSITIVITIES REGARDING ITS BEING IN-
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VOLVED IN SALE OF ARMS TO MIDDLE EAST, BUT FEEL WE COULD LEGITIMATELY ASK ITS ACQUIESCENCE IN BRIEF (TWO HOUR) M-60 DEMONSTRATION FOR KUWAITIS WHICH COULD BE CARRIED OUT IN MANNER DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE POLICY PROBLEMS FOR BONN. DEMONSTRATION WOULD BE BY US ARMY AND, AS IN PREVIOUS CASE, KUWAITIS (4 ONLY IN NUMBER) WOULD BE ASKED TO TRAVEL IN CIVILIAN DRESS AND AVOID PUBLICITY IN CONNECTION WITH VISIT TO FRG. WE BELIEVE THAT KUWAIT' S RELATIVELY MINOR POLITICAL STATUS, ITS IMPORTANCE AS MAJOR OIL PRODUCING STATE, AND FACT THAT BONN HAS JUST OPENED AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL RELATIONS WITH IT MAY ALSO BE MODERATING FACTORS IN FRG VIEW OF VISIT.

3. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED ABOVE, WE BELIEVE IT IN US INTEREST TO INSTITUTE REQUEST FOR FRG PERMISSION HOLD LOW PROFILE DEMONSTRATION AT GRAFENWOEHR ON OR ABOUT 21 MAY. EMBASSY BONN REQUESTED ADVISE DEPARTMENT AND DEFENSE BY IMMEDIATE CABLE, IF YOU FEEL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS MILITATE AGAINST YOUR APPROACHING FRG ON THIS MATTER. RUSH

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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